(3) PANEL OF VICE-CHAIRMEN.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have also, to announce to the House that, under rule 14 of the Madras Legislative Council Rules, I have nominated the following Members of the Council to be the Panel of Vice-Chairmen for the twentieth session of the Legislative Council under the Constitution :—

1. Sri M. Seshachariar.
2. Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar.
3. Sri L. S. Karayalar.
4. Srimathi S. Manjubhashini.

V. CALLING ATTENTION TO LARGE-SCALE UNEMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DISTRESS PREVALENT AMONG FISHERMEN IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT AND PARTS OF TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT.

VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, under Rule 42 (1) of the Madras Council Rules I seek your permission to call the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Co-operation to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the large-scale unemployment since January 1962 and the economic distress prevalent among fishermen in the Kanyakumari district and parts of Tirunelveli district and the necessity for immediate relief measures to alleviate their sufferings.

THE HON. SRI N. NALLASENAPATHI SARKARAI MANRADIAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, our fishermen in the coastal villages are dependent on the sea for their livelihood and they go out to the sea for fishing. The best season for fishing along the coast of Kanyakumari is July to October when very good catches are expected. In the Tirunelveli district, the favourable season for fishing is July to February. During the normal years the fishermen tide over the lean period with the savings they would have made during the favourable period and with the accumulated dry fish savings. The catches during the lean period may not be adequate to maintain a family. Usually, during these lean months, their habits tend to be frugal while they slacken them in the fat months of the year.

Duing the year 1961, there was a failure of fishery during the best season because of the unprecedented floods in May and the altered seasonal conditions. As the export of fish to Ceylon had also been cut down, the fishermen were badly affected. Consequently, there were scarcity conditions among the fishermen when the lean period commenced.

The Collector of Kanyakumari reported that scarcity conditions due to dearth of fish catches were prevalent in three taluks in Kanyakumari district, namely, Kalkulam, Vilavankode and Agastheeswaram, and he recommended measures for providing relief to the fishermen families. Accordingly the Government approved of an agreement to distribute to 12,340 fishermen families for a month at two measures of rice and fifty naye Paise

worth of tapioca per week per family so that it would be possible for the fishermen to subsist. A Member of the Board of Revenue has also visited the affected areas. The Collector had begun on 19th March 1962 the system of subsidies, giving each large family with more than six members, 2 measures of rice and 50 naye Paise worth of tapioca and every small family with less than six members, 1½ measures of rice and 37 naye Paise worth of tapioca per week on cards distributed for this purpose. The total expenditure incurred by the Government on account of the sanction of the relief measures comes to Rs. 1,31,000.

In the coastal villages in Tirunelveli district also the fishermen were representing about the scarcity conditions and the Collector of Tirunelveli investigated the position. Nineteen fishermen villages in the coast were affected. Eighteen fishermen Co-operative Societies cover these villages. The fishermen contacted by the Collector did not want feeding centres or any dole. On the suggestion of the Collector, 18 fair price shops have been opened in these villages and entrusted to the Fishermen Co-operative Societies and rice is distributed through these shops at 1 Mdaras Measure per day. The Government are examining other proposals for affording relief to the fishermen by way of postponement of the collection of instalments of loans granted to the fishermen, the supply of charkas to the fisherwomen and the taking up of the road works in the coastal area so as to provide employment to such of those fishermen as are willing to work. The Collector has already instructed the Panchayat Union Commissioners to take up the execution of all programmed road works in the coastal area.

The Government hope that with the above measures the fishermen families will tide over the lean period and with the approach of the good season for fishing, normal conditons will return. The Government are watching the situation.

## VI.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS.

### (1) ELECTION OF NINE MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I move—

'That, with reference to rule 156 of the Madras Legislative Council Rules, this Council do proceed on a date to be fixed by the Hon. Chairman to elect nine members to be members of the Committee of Privileges for the financial year 1962-63.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is—

'That, with reference to rule 156 of the Madras Legislative Council Rules, this Council, do proceed on a date to be fixed by the Hon. Chairman to elect nine members to be members of the Committee of Privileges for the financial year 1962–63.

The motion was put and carried.